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Check it out! Library Newsletter, Fall 2007

Johnson & Wales University Library - Providence

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As part of the University-wide initiative to “Focus the Nation” on global warming, the J&W Providence Libraries are adding new books and videos that address global warming and climate change from the perspective of various disciplines. Related exhibits will also be mounted. On three separate Thursdays from 4:30-5:30 p.m., library director Rosie Hopper will convene a reading group on climate change. (Plans are underway to provide locally produced refreshments!)

Reading Circle
Save these dates!
- Oct 4, Field Notes From a Catastrophe, by Elizabeth Kolbert
- Jan 10, When the Rivers Run Dry, by Fred Pearce
- Mar 20, Red Sky at Morning, by James Speth

Watch for other University-wide Focus the Nation events in October, December and January.

Library Welcomes URI Prism Scholar

Library student Martha T. Moore started her internship at the J&W Downcity Library this past June. Martha expects to receive her Master’s degree from the URI Graduate School of Library and Information Science in December 2007. The PRISM Plus Fellowship Program is funded by the Institute of Museum & Library Services and is dedicated to educating future librarians about information literacy for diverse populations.

The nature of her work for Johnson & Wales includes handling database maintenance projects under the direction of librarian Betty Anne Nelson. She is also working in the Reference Area, becoming acquainted with the many different kinds of questions, large and small, that reference librarians tackle every day.

As part of her internship, Martha will be conducting a study of how effectively the University Library contributes to raising the information literacy levels of its diverse student population.

She has worked since 1989 in the Rhode Island State Law Library in Providence, most recently as a cataloger and technical assistant.

In 1992, she received a Master’s degree from Johnson & Wales in Managerial Technology.

Born in Liberia, Martha was the first president of the Virginia Association of Liberians in the Americas, an organization founded to help the citizens of her hometown with basic needs.

If you see Martha at the Reference Desk, stop by and introduce yourself!
New Research Databases

Hi, I am Latasha Battle, Student Assistant, Downcity Reference

Even though this position is not in my field of study, I have gained so much working here. It has helped me move closer to my goal of becoming a computer graphics pro and given me experience that I will use in the working world.

There are two benefits of working here that come to mind that I think you should know about. One is the knowledge that is gained while learning to use the research databases and online library catalog, and the other is the joy of helping my fellow classmates.

Learning how to use the catalog and databases has a dual effect for me. Yes, it allows me to do my job, which is helping students and staff with anything pertaining to the reference area. But, it also helps me directly. I now have the tools to do my own school work, and everything is at my fingertips. It’s a learning experience as well as great opportunity to help pay for college. I earn scholarship money in addition to an hourly wage. I am enjoying my time here at JWU and am grateful to have found a position such as this one. My major is Computer Graphics and I have also been able to use what I’m learning in class by creating and designing signs for displays around the Library. This has helped me gain confidence in my abilities as well as enhancing skills in my field! I will be a student here at JWU for another two years and I look forward to helping each and every one of you with whatever you may need in the future.

(For more information on working at the Library, stop by a service desk at either facility.)

Best Sellers at Harborside Library

“...A book is not an isolated being; it is a relationship, an axis of innumerable relationships.” So wrote Jorge Luis Borges, one of the world’s greatest, most erudite writers. However, Borges himself used to say that he took more pride in his readings than his writings. (Borges Center, 2007) This fall, exemplifying the University Library’s commitment to the philosophy that the love of reading leads to a richer quality of life, a 200-volume collection of best selling books is being added to the University Library’s Harborside Campus facility. A major advantage of the collection is that its books are leased rather than owned by the Library, meaning that as demand for certain titles decreases they can be routinely replaced with fresh, newly published titles. Although book selectors will attempt to provide as wide a variety as possible of non-fiction as well as literary genres, the proximity of the College of Culinary Arts will make it tempting to keep the collection well-stocked with food-related novels such as Judith R. Hendricks’ “Bread Alone,” or Maeve Binchy’s “Quentins.” Recommendations for additions to this or other collections are always welcome. (See the Library’s Building the Collection policy at library.jwu.edu/build.htm) Books in the Harborside Best Sellers collection will circulate for an initial lending period of 28 days with 2 renewal periods of 14 days each.

Don’t miss:

- New Richard K. Miller e-books on marketing
- Advertising Red Books are now online
- CultureGrams reports on over 200 countries, states and provinces
- SAGE Journals Online (Premier) provides access to 480 journals from 1999 to the present
- Go to http://library.jwu.edu/research/databases/ to get access to all these and more!
Did you know? Among other credentials, each of our librarians holds a master’s degree from an American Library Association-accredited library and information science program. Programs represented are the University of Rhode Island, Simmons College, Southern Connecticut State University, and Columbia University.
CHECK IT OUT!

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Harborside Menu Collection

Fine Dining... Bistros & Taverns... Surf & Turf... Fusion... Sushi... Middle Eastern... Oceanic... Russian... These are only some of the categories used by staff at the Harborside Campus Library to organize its collection of more than 7,000 restaurant menus. These menus—stored primarily in a large cabinet of hanging files and many of them one-of-a-kind—are now easier for Library visitors to browse and examine thanks to the labor of librarians Talia Resendes, Fred Brown and a team of dedicated student assistants who in 2006 began a project to sort, categorize and then file the menus in a way that makes them easier to find.

“Because the students working on this project were all culinary arts majors, we relied on them to help us to think like culinarians when coming up with the categories,” said Ms. Resendes, who was in charge of getting the project underway. While library & information science has over the years developed several highly practical yet sophisticated information classification schemes such as the Library of Congress Classification & Subject Headings used in most U.S. academic libraries, the Harborside Library staff found the scheme insufficiently granular in the areas of culinary arts and food science, ergo the locally constructed J&W Menu Categories scheme. You can explore for yourself the amazing range of menus by visiting the Harborside Library. Everyone who sees them is awed by the artistry of their design and construction, not to mention their mouth-watering descriptions of food offerings, as well as a backwards glance at the cost of eating out in years gone by. Anyone for a full course rib eye buffet at $1.50 a plate?

Using Digital Technology to Preserve & Promote

The Providence Campus Library has joined an initiative to make original scholarly, artistic or other creative materials by students, faculty and staff available via the Web. In conjunction with the Higher Education Library Consortium (HELIN), the Library maintains the Scholar’s Archive@J&W, an institutional repository of digitized and “born digital” documents and artifacts. Any J&W school or department is welcome to contribute resources representing the best creative or intellectual output resulting from its administrative or educational initiatives. Prospective collections include the University’s distinguished visiting chef videos converted from VHS to streaming video format, as well as digitized images of student-created menus. Interested? Contact library director Rosie Hopper at x1145.

Info to Go! Ten (Or So) Hottest Borrowed Books From J&W

From top: Elvis Presley’s Memphis; Dragon Court, MGM Grand Las Vegas; Taman Sari Grill, Jakarta Hilton.

Downcity:
- The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown
- The Five People You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom
- My Sister’s Keeper by Jodi Picoult
- PS, I Love You by Cecelia Ahern
- Nights in Rodanthe by Nicholas Sparks
- Honeymoon by James Patterson and Howard Roughan
- He’s Just Not That Into You: The No-Excuses Truth to Understanding Guys by Greg Behrendt
- The Time Travelers Wife by Audrey Niffenegger

Harborside:
- Nighttime Is My Time by Mary Higgins Clark
- Empress Orchid by Anchee Min

Typical Japanese Cooking by The Japanese Cooking Companions
- Cuisines of Portuguese Encounters by Cherie Y. Hamilton
- Greek Food: An Affectionate Celebration by Rena Salaman
- Let’s Go. France!

“Reading is a basic tool in the living of a good life.” — From How to Read a Book by Mortimer J. Adler.